



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

November 9, 2005

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Kim Marie Thorburn, MD, MPH, Chair

**SUBJECT: PANDEMIC FLU BRIEFING**

**Background and Summary**

At its October meeting, the State Board of Health requested a briefing on avian influenza and the risk of a possible pandemic. Although coverage of "bird flu" and predictions that the world could soon be facing flu pandemic has saturated the media, this is a complex issue and developments are ongoing. The Bush administration released its pandemic preparedness plan just one week ago.

For today's meeting I have asked Mary Selecky, Board Member and Secretary of Health, to provide a briefing on avian flu and pandemic preparedness efforts. She will be joined by John Erickson, Director of the Public Health Preparedness and Response Program for the Department of Health (DOH).

Attached are a DOH fact sheet on pandemic flu and a brochure promoting respiratory etiquette. Also included in your books is the *Disaster Preparedness Handbook* published by DOH and the Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department.

**Recommended Board Action**

None.